



# NEWS RELEASE

## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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### **Police urge football fans to drive sober on Super Bowl Sunday**

*Drivers are reminded that Noah's Law, passed in Oct. 2016,  
stiffens penalties for DUI*

Howard County police will be out in force Super Bowl weekend working to keep the roads safe. Police are alerting drivers that saturation patrols will be in place to seek out impaired drivers and take them off the road. The department is urging football fans who plan to attend Super Bowl parties to designate a sober driver before consuming any alcohol.

Police are reminding drivers that there are now stronger penalties in Maryland for those convicted of driving under the influence. Noah's Law, known as the Drunk Driving Reduction Act of 2016, took effect on Oct. 1 and mandates ignition interlocks for those convicted of drunk driving, even after a first offense. The law also significantly increases driver's license suspension periods.

According to the Maryland Highway Safety Office, police officers in Maryland made more than 22,000 arrests for DUI in 2015 through checkpoints and DUI patrols, all of which could have been avoided with the use of a designated driver.

HCPD and the Maryland Highway Safety Office offer the following tips to celebrate safely this Super Bowl weekend.

If you're attending a Super Bowl party:

- Designate a sober driver or plan another way to get home safely before the party begins.
- If you don't have a sober driver, call a friend, call a cab or ridesharing service, or stay for the night.
- Never let friends drive if they've had too much to drink.

If you're hosting a party:

- Encourage your guests to designate a sober driver in advance.
- Serve plenty of food and non-alcoholic beverages.
- Keep the numbers for local cab companies and ridesharing services handy or arrange for alternate transportation.
- Take the keys away from guests who shouldn't be driving.

Officers will be out in increased numbers before and after the game looking for drivers exhibiting signs of impairment. The department also reminds drivers and passengers to always wear a seatbelt; a properly worn seatbelt is the best defense against injury in any crash.

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